

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 249571

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM PRETORIA OCT 13:

QUOTE S E C R E T PRETORIA 5452

NODIS - CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGOV SF WA RH MNUC
SUBJ: SAG RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 15 NUCLEAR DEMARCHE

1. AT MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, BRAND FOURIE HANDED ME TWO COMMUNICATIONS, THE TEXTS OF WHICH ARE REPRODUCED BELOW. THE FIRST IS A SHORT LETTER FROM PIK BOTHA TO THE SECRETARY ANSWERING HIS LETTER OF SEPT 15. THE SECOND IS A LONG COMMUNICATION FROM PM VORSTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER RESPONDING TO OUR SEPT 15 AIDE MEMOIRE ON NUCLEAR MATTERS, AS WELL AS DISCUSSING THE NAMIBIAN AND RHODESIAN PROBLEMS, AND US POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA IN POLEMICAL TERMS.
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2. IN SEPTEL WILL BE COVERED OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS MADE BY FOURIE ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION. IN STILL SEPARATE CABLES I AM REPORTING WHAT HE HAD TO SAY ON THE KAUNDA-SMITH MEETING AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA, BOTH SUBJECTS WHICH HE RAISED DURING WAHT TURNED OUT TO BE A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON.

3. TEXT OF BOTHA LETTER TO SECRETARY:
BEGIN TEXT: DEAR CYRUS,
IN YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 15, 1977, YOU INDICATED THAT

PRESIDENT CARTER HAD ASKED YOU TO CONVEY APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA'S PEACEFUL NUCLEAR INTENTIONS. I SUBMITTED YOUR LETTER AND THE ACCOMPANYING AIDE-MEMOIRE TO MY PRIME MINISTER AND I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD BE KIND ENOUGH TO TRANSMIT THE ATTACHED MESSAGE, CONTAINING HIS REACTIONS, TO PRESIDENT CARTER. THE MESSAGE ALSO REFERS TO THE QUESTIONS OF RHODESIA AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA - MATTERS DEALT WITH IN AN EARLIER EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH THE PRESIDENT.

I WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION PARTICULARLY TO THE CONCLUDING SENTENCE IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE MESSAGE IN WHICH IT IS SUGGESTED THAT AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION BY OUR OFFICIALS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY MATTERS COULD BE USEFUL. IT HAS OCCURRED TO ME THAT PERHAPS YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ASKING AMBASSADOR GERARD C SMITH TO VISIT US FOR THIS PURPOSE.

YOURS SINCERELY

R F BOTHA

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS END TEXT

4. TEXT OF VORSTER LETTER TO PRESIDENT:

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR ME. PRESIDENT,
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1. I HAVE RECEIVED THE MESSAGE CONVEYED THROUGH MY FOREIGN MINISTER BY SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE ON THE 15TH SEPTEMBER 1977 REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME.
 2. YOU WILL RECALL THAT PURSUANT TO REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, WE FORMALLY ADVISED IT IN AUGUST THAT SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT HAVE, NOR DID IT INTEND TO DEVELOP, A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE FOR ANY PURPOSE, PEACEFUL OR OTHERWISE; THAT THE SO-CALLED KALAHARI FACILITY WAS NOT A TESTING GROUND FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS; AND THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TESTING OF ANY KIND IN SOUTH AFRICA.
 3. FURTHERMORE, ON THE 24TH AUGUST 1977, I REITERATED THESE ASSURANCES IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT. AT THE SAME TIME I FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE NEED FOR GOODWILL, TRUST, CO-OPERATION AND THE NECESSITY OF HONOURING COMMITMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS BY ALL STATES WITH AN INTEREST IN THE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.
- IN THIS CONNECTION I DREW ATTENTION TO A SERIES OF DISCRIMINATORY STEPS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, E.G. -
- (1) UNWILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS TO SUPPLY SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE CONTRACTED FUEL ELEMENTS FOR THE RESEARCH REACTOR SAFARI I, THUS SERIOUSLY AFFECTING OUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME;
 - (2) IGNORING OF COMMITMENTS BY THE NUCLEAR POWERS TO FACILITATE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION FOR THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE IV(2) OF THE NPT;
(3) THE OUSTING OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE BOARD OF
GOVERNORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE AGENCY'S
STATUTE;
SOME EFFORTS WERE MADE TO JUSTIFY THIS DISCRIMI-
NATORY STEP ON THE PRETEXT THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD
NOT ADHERED TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY,
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CONVENIENTLY FORGETTING THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, NO
LESS THAN 13 OF THE 34 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF
GOVERNORS HAVE EITHER NOT RATIFIED OR ACCEDED TO
THE NPT - INCLUDING EGYPT, WHO REPLACED SOUTH
AFRICA ON THE BOARD.
YOU WILL ALSO BE AWARE THAT IN SPITE OF INDIA'S
NON-ADHERENCE TO THE NPT AND HER EXPLOSION OF A
NUCLEAR DEVICE, SHE WAS SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED
STATES WITH ENRICHED FUEL FOR HER TARAPUR REACTOR;
(4) THE EXTREME PRESSURE WHICH IS EXERTED ON SOUTH
AFRICA TO ACCEDE TO THE NPT AS AGAINST THE
APPARENT LACK OF PRESSURE ON NON-NPT MEMBERS OF
THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE IAEA TO ADHERE TO
THE TREATY;
(5) FROM THE LATEST U.S. DEMARCHE (THAT OF 15 SEPTEMBER 1977) IT IS CLEAR THAT IN SPITE OF A FIRM
CONTRACT WITH ERDA, THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT
SUPPLY LOW ENRICHED FUEL FOR THE TWO KOEBERG POWER
STATIONS UNLESS SOUTH AFRICA ACCEDES TO THE NPT;
(6) IT HAS NOT PASSED UNNOTICED THAT SOUTH AFRICA, ONE
OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SUPPLIERS OF URANIUM, AND A
POTENTIAL EXPORTER OF ENRICHMENT EQUIPMENT, IS
EXCLUDED FROM EVERY GROUP FORMED FOR CONSIDERING
MATTERS RELATING TO NON-PROLIFERATION. ONE CAN-
NOT ESCAPE THE FEELING THAT A SYSTEMATIC ATTEMPT
IS BEING MADE TO EXCLUDE SOUTH AFRICA FROM ALL
DELIBERATIONS IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY FIELD. THE
LATEST EXAMPLE IS THE EXCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA
FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUA-
TION, WHICH EVALUATION IS THE SUBJECT OF CONSUL-
TATION WITH 36 OF THE AGENCY'S MEMBER STATES.

4. NEVERTHELESS, IN MY STATEMENT OF 24 AUGUST 1977, I MADE
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IT CLEAR THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH
THE UNITED STATES THE QUESTION OF OUR ACCESSION TO THE NPT,
BUT ADDED THAT DISCRIMINATORY STEPS, INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED
BY ME, WOULD ACTUALLY BE RAISED AND WOULD HAVE TO BE SORTED
OUT AT THE SAME TIME. I WAS SINCERELY HOPING THAT THIS

WOULD LEAD TO A FRANK DISCUSSION BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO FACILITATE OUR ACCESSION TO THE NPT.

5. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES DEMARCHE OF 15 SEPTEMBER SEEMS TO IMPLY THAT WE MUST FIRST ADHERE TO THE TREATY, AND PURSUANT THERETO SOME, I REPEAT SOME OF THE POINTS RAISED BY ME CAN THEREAFTER BE DISCUSSED. IT THEREFORE APPEARS TO US THAT THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO CONCENTRATE ONLY ON THE NPT, IGNORING THE REST. SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD NOT BE PRACTICABLE.

I NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S ANXIETY OVER THE VALINDABA PILOT PLANT PERSISTS. THERE IS NOTHING SINISTER ABOUT THE PLANT, AND WE HAVE OFTEN STATED ITS PURPOSE, AND I PERSONALLY OFFERED TO SHARE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES THE KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY ACQUIRED.

I HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT IF OVVICIAL UNITED STATES SPOKESMEN WERE TO REFRAIN FROM QUESTIONING SOUTH AFRICA'S GOOD FAITH, AND INSTEAD WERE TO AGREE TO AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION BY OUR OFFICIALS ON THESE MATTERS, A MAJOR STEP COULD BE TAKEN TOWARDS OPENING THE WAY FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S ADHERENCE TO THE NPT.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND RHODESIA

6. WE RECENTLY CONCLUDED THE LATEST ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON

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